

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

***PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.***

**1. Project Title:** Friends of the Children/Portland – SE Impact Project

**2. Organization Name and address:**

Friends of the Children – Portland  
44 NE Morris  
Portland, OR 97212

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:**

Terri Sorensen, Executive Director  
503 281 6633 503 281 6819 fax  
tsorensen@friendsofthechildren.org

**4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):**

To Be Determined During Project – will be targeting the Lent's Neighborhood of outer SE Portland

**5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**

*Friends of the Children-Portland* is a private non-profit organization providing an intensive, relationship-focused mentoring program that provides our community's most vulnerable children with an opportunity to realize their individual potential and inherent worth. Our unique program targets kindergarten-aged children living in disadvantaged circumstances who are already exhibiting issues of concern in the classroom, and pairs them with paid, professional mentors (called *Friends*) for 12 ½ years, through their high school graduation date. Despite the considerable challenges our constituency faces, *Friends of the Children* has been remarkably successful at helping youth achieve high school completion, as well as avoid the juvenile justice system and teen pregnancy.

*Friends of the Children* began in 1993 by serving 24 children in three N/NE Portland schools. In 2000, we expanded to begin selecting children from high needs SE Portland schools. Today we partner with nine (9) Portland Public Schools (PPS) for child selection, though because of the long-term nature of our program and the frequency with which our children are forced to relocate, our participants are currently attending more than 115 schools in the metro area.

The *Friends* model was developed based on extensive research into factors that influence success and build resiliency among at-risk children. This research revealed that children who have succeeded in spite of adverse environmental conditions have done so because of the

close, **sustained** support of a caring adult. Built upon this principle, our program takes a preventative, early intervention approach by intentionally selecting children who face significant challenges and are at the highest risk for school failure, abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency (including gang and drug involvement), teenage parenting, and ongoing poverty.

**Facts and Accomplishments:** The defining characteristics that make us unique include:

1. We employ professional mentors. *Friends* are full-time, trained, paid professionals who are hired for their experience and talent for working with high-risk children.
2. We intervene early, at the age of five or six, which allows us to build on our children's strengths before various systems accentuate their weaknesses.
3. Our mentors spend time with children frequently, an average of 16 hours/month with each child, which fosters the development of trust and close one-on-one relationships.
4. We commit for the long-term. Research shows that, for youth at the highest risk, short-term mentoring relationships do not result in significant positive impact and can actually cause harm. We are committed to providing children with a *Friend* from kindergarten through high school, even as they move within 30 miles of our NE Portland location. Our average length of service for our paid mentors is over six years.

*Friends of the Children* sets three long-term goals for every child in our program. Our 2008 third party evaluation shows that the great majority of our children are meeting these goals:

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Success in school with a minimum Of H.S. diploma ( <i>preferred</i> ) or GED	Avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system	Avoid early parenting
<i>Friends Success Rate</i>	<i>Friends Success Rate</i>	<i>Friends Success Rate</i>
<b>92%</b> attend school regularly; <b>82%</b> of our program graduates have earned a H.S. diploma or GED <b>while more than 40% of our youth have a parent that did not complete high school</b>	<b>92%</b> have avoided the juvenile justice system despite <b>at least 60% having one or more parents who have been incarcerated</b>	<b>98%</b> of adolescents avoid early parenting despite <b>at least 60% having been born to a teen parent</b>

***What's the community's need?*** This spring a young boy was selected for our program who exhibited worsening behavior in his kindergarten classroom. He was quick to anger, argue or cry often, and at times becomes socially withdrawn. His mother loves him very much, but for reasons beyond her control is now unable to care for him. As a result, he lives with his father, who until recently had been incarcerated and uninvolved in his life. He is a bright young man who, despite his circumstances, exhibits a strong sense of hope... a quality that a *Friend* can build upon over the next 12 ½ years.

*Friends of the Children* serves some of the most at-risk children and youth in the Portland area, such as the boy described above. Our children live with a myriad of risk-indicators:

- 90% or more qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 70% have at least one parent with a known history of substance abuse
- 60% have one or more parents that have been incarcerated
- At least 50% are known to have been impacted by domestic violence
- At least 50% have had a report of abuse or neglect filed on their behalf

**6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

This SE Impact Project will 1) provide better regionally located services in E/SE Portland; 2) expand our program to David Douglas School District, and 3) expand our *Adolescent Program* to better serve E/SE Portland.

Rising housing costs in N/NE Portland have resulted in the migration of many in our target population to communities in outer E/SE Portland. East county school districts (David Douglas, Centennial, Gresham/Barlow, Parkrose, and Reynolds) have seen a dramatic increase in low-income students, from 10.7% qualifying for free/reduced lunch in 2000-01, to 54.4% in 2007-08 (2007-08 F&R report; ODE).

David Douglas is one of the lowest-income districts in the metro area, with 69% of students eligible for free/reduced lunch. It is also the fastest growing district, with enrollment increasing by 22% since 2000-2001 (ODE).

40% of our 350 children and youth reside in outer E/SE Portland. The 18 *Friends* serving these youth travel an average of 178 miles per month between our NE Portland facility and SE Portland communities. Assuming current distribution, this project eliminates 90 miles per week per *Friend*, saving approximately \$1,000/month in transportation costs. These *Friends* will then have one to two additional hours per week to spend with children in the community. The SE Impact Project will allow us to capture at least 18 additional hours per week (864 hours per year) from our current workforce.

**Need for Teen-Specific Programming:** In the next five years, the number of youth in our program in grades 6 – 12 will grow to 175 (an increase of 30%). We have found that one-on-one time spent between a youth and their *Friend* often decreases in adolescence.

To be more efficient, we recently implemented modifications to our *Adolescent Program*. Youth entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade now transition to *Adolescent Friends*, mentors with training and experience focusing on issues facing teens. We now support adolescents individually, in school, and in group programs for them to build leadership skills and pursue educational goals in a positive and engaging peer atmosphere; including opportunities to socialize and participate in academic support, college and work preparedness workshops, and recreational endeavors. Using more group activity, we are able to divide one-on-one time among more youth than *Friends* working with younger children. Thus, these modifications allow for service to 50% more children without adding additional staff and lower overall program cost.

The modifications are successful. In addition to one-on-one time spent with *Friends*, 118 adolescents participated in group programming last year (a 136% increase over 2005-06) and the average number of service hours each adolescent received annually tripled. However, 30% of our teens (grades 6-12) currently reside in E/SE Portland and find it very difficult to access the NE Portland facility where the majority of group activities take place. Without viable transportation many are unable to join their peers in receiving the full benefits of the *Adolescent Program*.

**This new expansion project increases the overall efficiency and service capacity of *Friends of the Children- Portland*, a proven program impacting youth at highest risk for expensive long-term outcomes.**

**7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No this project has not received federal appropriations.

**7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

N/A

**8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):**

Department of Education: Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Services to Children and Families

**9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

This project builds on a proven private investment being made in 350 children and youth in the Portland area who are at the highest risk of dropping out of school, entering the juvenile justice system or becoming a parent during their teen years. This private funding (over \$3 million in 2008 from more than 1500 donors) is already providing tremendous return on investment. These taxpayer funds will accelerate this investment and its economic return in Oregon. In addition, the investment will free up public resources in the future by preventing expensive incarceration and public assistance costs.

Economists estimate that preventing one high risk child from becoming a high-school dropout, a career criminal, or a drug abuser saves \$1.7 to \$2.3 million costs to society in 1998 dollars (Cohen, Mark. "The Monetary Value of Saving a High-Risk Youth." Journal of Quantitative Criminology 14.1 (1998): 5-32). These costs revised in December 2007 dollars are \$2.1 to \$3.7 million dollars.

Furthermore, this project will increase the presence of our proven program in some of the poorest urban communities in the state of Oregon: the Lent's neighborhood of outer SE Portland, an area targeted for urban renewal, and the David Douglas School District which is both the fastest growing in the state and the poorest. The David Douglas Schools Superintendent has offered a formal letter of support for this project and use of one of their facilities to house programming.

**10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?**

We have not requested funding from other Members of Congress.

**11. Funding Details:**

**a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):**

The initial implementation of this project will cost \$1,241,750 over 3 years.

**b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:**

We request \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 2010.

**c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)**

Social Venture Partners Portland (\$25,000 secured)

Oregon Community Foundation – Children’s Land Trust Fund (\$250,000 pending)  
Individual Donor (\$25,000)

**d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?**

We anticipate requesting federal funding in 2011 and 2012. We anticipate private investment to support the project from 2013 forward.

**e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.  
(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

**Program Salaries and Benefits:**

Program Management - 0.5 FTE	\$	33,250
Activities Specialist - 0.5 FTE (new position)	\$	25,000
Friends - 2 FTE	\$	91,250
<b>Salaries and Benefits Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>148,500</b>

**Facility, Activity & Transportation Costs:**

Space & Facility Costs	\$	185,000
IT Support	\$	4,000
Transportation	\$	31,000
Youth Activity Costs	\$	43,000
<b>Facility, Activity &amp; Transportation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>263,000</b>

*Non-Recurring Project Costs:*

**Capital & Project Implementation:**

Leasehold Improvements	\$	40,000
IT Equipment	\$	17,500
Dedicated SE van	\$	30,000
Project Management – long-term facility development	\$	-
<b>Capital &amp; Project Implementation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>87,500</b>

<b>PROJECT TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>500,000</b>
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**f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:**

David Douglas School District  
Social Venture Partners Portland  
Friends of the Children Board Strategic Planning Committee

**g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):**

Yes, the project is scalable.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:

[appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov)